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3/9. Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Emphasizing that it is important to reduce the level of exposure to lead since no known level of exposure to lead is considered safe and recognizing the need for progress in all regions towards addressing sources of lead exposure,

Recalling its resolutions 1/5 and 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, in which it recognized the significant risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of lead into the environment and encouraged action on reducing sources of lead, as well as the goal of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals by 2020, as also reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals,

Concerned about the health and environmental impact of waste lead-acid battery recycling, including through activities in the informal sector in developing countries, and the lack of awareness of lead poisoning and adequate infrastructure for environmentally sound management,

Recognizing that although recycled lead is used in both developed and developing countries, the environmental and health impact of waste lead-acid battery recycling occurs primarily in developing countries,

Concerned that exposure to lead, including lead in paint and in waste lead-acid batteries, can cause serious lifelong damage, especially in children, such as loss of intelligence quotient and behavioural problems, and that exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth and malformations,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste requires increased political attention in order to achieve sustainable development and to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming once again the work undertaken and the decisions adopted within the framework of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, among others, and building on its resolution 1/5 and annex I thereto on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term,

Recognizing the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the progress it has made,

Welcoming also the work of the Global Partnership on Waste Management as a tool for providing an overview analysis and recommendations for policies and actions for the environmentally sound management of waste,

Noting the release of the model law and guidance for regulating lead paint by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the call to action by the World Health Assembly at its seventieth session to phase out lead paint by 2020,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress made pursuant to resolution 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste,[1]

Stressing the importance of financial, technical, technological and capacity-building support, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to strengthen national capabilities for the management of lead,

1. *Reiterates* its strong determination to continue to reduce exposure to lead, including through promoting the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and eliminating lead paint;

2. *Encourages* Governments that have not yet done so and in the light of national circumstances to develop, adopt and implement legislation or regulations and to support the development of private sector strategies to eliminate lead paint, and to undertake actions throughout the value chain, including disposal, in order to remove the risks such paints pose, especially to vulnerable groups including pregnant women, infants and children;

3. *Encourages* member States to continue their efforts for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries, including by:

(a) Developing national strategies in order to manage the collection of waste lead-acid batteries and addressing the issue of remediation of contaminated sites;

(b) Adequately addressing releases, emissions and exposures from waste lead-acid batteries, including recycling, and utilizing appropriate standards and criteria;

(c) Cooperating in collecting waste lead-acid batteries for environmentally sound processing at regional or national recycling facilities, consistent with the relevant provisions of the Basel Convention and relevant regional conventions, such as the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, as applicable;

4. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider revising the *Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-acid Batteries* regarding the application of new technologies in different aspects of environmentally sound management systems;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance the national, subregional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, subject to the availability of resources, including by providing further capacity-building with respect to waste lead-acid batteries to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for recycling, and better track and trace shipments, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Basel Convention;

6. *Invites* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to become a partner of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint;

7. *Urges* Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support the Global Partnership on Waste Management and, where appropriate, to take action in partnerships in core areas of the environmentally sound management of waste;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to assist countries in eliminating the use of lead paint, under the leadership of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the World Health Organization, in particular providing tools and capacity-building for developing national legislation and regulations, and to work regionally, where appropriate;

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[1] UNEP/EA.3/10.

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution as part of the report on the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions on the sound management of chemicals and waste.